

IN THE CLAIMS:

The status and content of each claim follows.

1. (currently amended) An ophthalmic apparatus comprising:  
an eye-positioning device comprising:  
[[a]] an electronic feedback device configured to provide information to a subject who is moving an eye from a current position to a desired position relative to the eye positioning device; and  
an applicator for dispensing the fluid into the eye conditionally upon positioning of the eye in the desired position.
2. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the eye-positioning device comprises:  
an eye-position detector for detecting the position of the eye.
3. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the feedback mechanism is operable to provide audible cues that assist the subject in moving the eye to the desired position.
4. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the feedback mechanism is operable to provide visual cues that assist the subject in moving the eye to the desired position.

5. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the eye-positioning device comprises a display for displaying a real-time image of the eye and a target, such that when the eye is aligned with the target, the eye is in the desired position.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the eye-positioning device comprises:

an image pick-up device for capturing an image of the eye; and

an image processor for processing the image of the eye and determining whether the eye is in the desired position for administering the fluid to the eye.

7. (original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the image pick-up device comprises a CCD camera.

8. (original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the eye-positioning device further comprises a feedback device operable to output feedback signals to the subject, the feedback signals corresponding to directions for moving the eye to the desired position.

9. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the applicator comprises:

a frame for wearing on the head of the subject; and

a fluid dispenser supported by the frame proximate the eye of the subject, the fluid dispenser configured to dispense fluid into the eye.

10. (original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the frame comprises a spectacle frame.
11. (original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the fluid dispenser comprises a jet dispenser.
12. (original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the fluid dispenser comprises a piezoelectric jet dispenser.
13. (original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the fluid dispenser comprises a thermal droplet jet dispenser.
14. (original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the applicator further comprises a controller operable to actuate the fluid dispenser.
15. (original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the controller is operable to control the fluid dispenser to dispense a predetermined dosage of fluid into the eye.
16. (original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the applicator further comprises a fluid reservoir for storing the fluid and delivering the fluid to the fluid dispenser.
17. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the applicator comprises:  
a jet dispenser having a plurality of ejection orifices; and

a controller operable to control the jet dispenser to dispense fluid from one or more selected ejection orifices.

18. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a user interface program for acquiring user input for setting one or more operating parameters of the apparatus.

19. (original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the user interface program comprises a graphical user interface element for setting one or more operating parameters of the apparatus.

20. (currently amended) An ophthalmic apparatus, comprising:

a dispensing apparatus for dispensing fluid into an eye of a subject;

an eye-position detector for detecting the current position of the eye relative to the dispensing apparatus; and

a feedback device for receiving information from the eye-position detector corresponding to the position of the eye,

~~and for providing~~ wherein the feedback device provides feedback information to the subject that assists the subject in moving the eye from the current position to a predetermined position relative to the dispensing apparatus for administering the fluid to the eye.

21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the dispensing apparatus comprises a spectacle frame for wearing on the head of the subject and a fluid dispenser carried by the frame and configured to propel fluid into the eye.

23. (original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the eye-position detector comprises an image-capturing device for capturing an image of the eye and a processor for processing the image to determine the current position of the eye relative to the predetermined position.

24. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein:  
the image-capturing device is operable to output a digitized image of the eye;  
the processor is operable to receive the digitized image, process the image to determine the current position of the eye relative to the predetermined position, and  
output a signal corresponding to the current position of the eye relative to the predetermined position; and  
the feedback device is operable to receive the signal from the processor and output a feedback signal that assists the subject in moving the eye to the predetermined position relative to the dispensing apparatus.

25. (original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the eye-position detector comprises:  
a digital camera for generating an image at the eye, the camera being supported by the frame; and  
a processor for processing the image to determine the current position of the eye relative to the predetermined position.

26. (original) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the processor comprises a controller, the controller being operable to control the fluid dispenser to dispense the fluid.

27. (original) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the controller controls the fluid dispenser to dispense the fluid when the processor detects that the eye is in the predetermined position.

28. (currently amended) An ophthalmic apparatus for administering a liquid to an eye of a subject, comprising:

~~detecting~~ means for detecting the position of the eye;

~~feedback~~ means for receiving feedback information from the ~~detecting~~ means for detecting the position of the eye corresponding to the position of the eye,

and for providing wherein the means for receiving feedback information provides feedback information to the subject that assists the subject in moving the eye from the current position to a predetermined position relative to the ophthalmic apparatus; and

~~dispensing~~ means for dispensing the liquid into the eye only when the eye is in the predetermined position.

29. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the ~~detecting~~ means for detecting the position of the eye comprises:

means for capturing an image of the eye; and

~~processing~~ means for detecting the position of the eye relative to the predetermined position based on the image of the eye.

30. (canceled)

31. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the ~~feedback~~ means for receiving feedback information comprises a feedback device operable to provide an audible or visual feedback signal to the subject to assist the subject in moving the eye to the predetermined position.

32. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the ~~dispensing~~ means for dispensing comprises a piezoelectric droplet jet dispenser or a thermal droplet jet dispenser.

33. (withdrawn) A method for administering a liquid to an eye of a subject, comprising:  
detecting the position of the eye relative to a predetermined position with an eye position detector;  
automatically providing feedback information to the subject if the eye-position detector detects that the eye is not in the predetermined position so that the subject can move the eye to the predetermined position; and  
dispensing the liquid into the eye with a liquid dispenser if the eye is in the predetermined position.

34. (canceled)

35. (withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein dispensing the liquid into the eye comprises dispensing the liquid from a jet dispenser.

36. (withdrawn) The method of claim 35, wherein the jet dispenser comprises a plurality of ejection nozzles and dispensing the liquid comprises dispensing the liquid from one or more selected nozzles of the plurality of nozzles.

37. (withdrawn) The method of claim 33, comprising generating an image of the eye to detect the position of the eye relative to the predetermined position.

38. (withdrawn) The method of claim 37, wherein the act of detecting the position of the eye comprises generating a digital image of the eye, and processing the digital image to determine the position of the eye relative to the predetermined position.

39. (withdrawn) The method of claim 33, further comprising selecting a location on the eye surface for administering the liquid, prior to the act of detecting the position of the eye.

40. (withdrawn) The method of claim 33, further comprising acquiring from user input, via a user interface software program, one or more operating parameters of the liquid dispenser.

41. (withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein one of said operating parameters is the dosage of the liquid to be dispensed into the eye.

42. (withdrawn/currently amended) A system for administering a fluid to an eye of a subject, comprising:



an image pick-up device for capturing an image of the eye and generating a digitized image of the eye;

an image processor for processing the digital image of the eye to determine whether the eye is in a predetermined position for administering the fluid to the eye;

[[a]] an electronic feedback device for generating a feedback signal to the subject if the image processor determines that the subject's eye is not in the predetermined position, the feedback signal comprising an audible or visual signal corresponding to a direction for moving the eye toward the predetermined position;

an applicator for dispensing the fluid into the eye when the eye is in the predetermined position, the applicator comprising a spectacle frame for wearing on the head of the subject, a fluid reservoir for containing the fluid, and a jet dispenser supported by the frame proximate the eye, the jet dispenser being fluidly connect to the fluid reservoir for receiving the fluid, the jet dispenser configured to dispense a controlled amount of the fluid into the eye;

a controller operable to control the jet dispenser to dispense the fluid; and a user interface software program for acquiring user input for setting operating parameters of the system.